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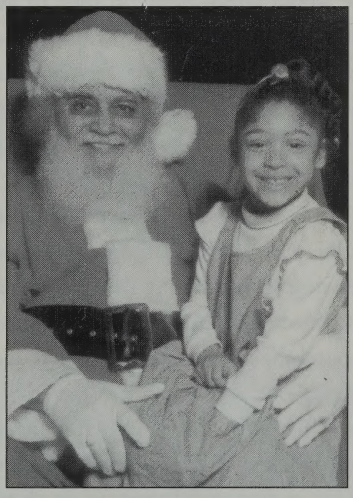
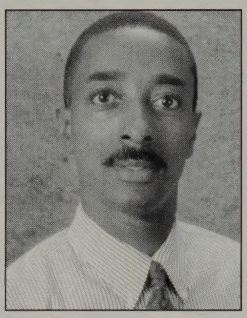
25 Campus Queens



On the cover Santa Claus Steve Hunter, Jr. with six-year-old Farren Washington, daughter of Morvan and Farren Washington of Bay St. Louis. Photographer: Jimmy Loiacano

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

I gained an appreciation for the dance they call the Macarena a few weeks ago. The first couple of times I saw people doing it, I thought that it was an okay dance, something like the hustle and the line dances from the middle seventies. But honestly, I didn't think it was a big deal. Certainly it wouldn't have the impact the twist had in the sixties. It wasn't until I saw four teenage girls doing it in unison as they glided around the skating rink on wheels that I was really amazed by the dance.

My youngest son had talked me into taking my nephew and him to the skating rink. I agreed under the one condition that we would return home in time to see the start of game six of the World Series. We had so much fun that I forgot about the World Series. When the lady behind the counter turned on the television, the game was already in the fourth inning.

In fact, just about everything I observed at the skating rink that night was quite fascinating. In addition to the four girls doing the macarena, one young man zoomed around the rink as fast as he could, kicking one leg out widely and then the other with each thrust, carefully avoiding the other skaters. Two girls spinned each other around as fast as they could, making me dizzy just watching. Two children held the hands of a younger, beginning skater, keeping him from falling. And, in addition to the individual skills and styles of the skaters, everybody appeared to be having a great time.

I hadn't skated in approximately ten years, however it didn't take me long to rediscover the fun of gliding around the rink on wheels. There's something special about negotiating your way through a group of skaters, barely missing them, or weaving around a young, inexperienced out-of-control skater in your path, avoiding a collision.

I was never what you might call a "great skater." I don't skate backwards or sideways. And certainly, I don't even try to dance on skates. The best thing about the skating rink is that everybody appears to be doing his\her own thing while basically doing the same thing. To an observer's eye, it may have the appearance of chaos, as approximately eighty skaters - children, teenagers, adults, male and female, athletic, non-athletic, African-Americans, Asians, Caucasians and others - glide, dance, jump and spin around the rink.

"I could learn from this," I think to myself. "Wouldn't it be great if I could negotiate the obstacles I encounter in my business and personal life with the skill of a good skater, yielding through a congested group of skaters?" "Or wouldn't it be even greater if life were more like a skating rink, where skaters of different ages, sizes, shapes, racial groups and skill levels coexist in harmony.

Happy Holidays!

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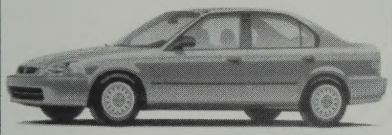

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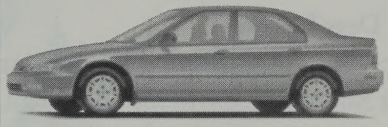

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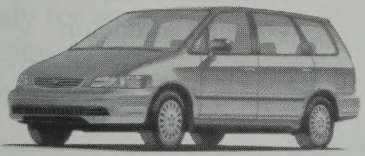

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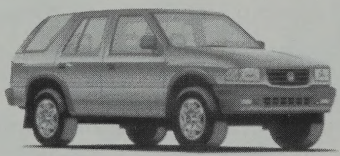

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LETTERS

Congrats! Amazing, your publication is a welcome treasure to the African American community. It gives us a sense of pride. In fact, my parents feel it's the best thing to come around since the microwave. It was also a pleasure to enjoy great writing by highly qualified writers, such as Marilyn (Vertison). Again, thanks for following a dream and enriching so many lives.

Syd Rushing
Gulfport

Dear Editor,

A big THANK YOU for bringing the Mississippi Star to the Gulf Coast. I am a subscriber to your magazine and have read each issue from cover to cover and am anxiously awaiting the December issue.

Mississippi Star focuses on the positive things that are happening on the Gulf Coast. I am especially impressed by your feature articles on "Bright Young Stars". It is important that we focus on the achievements of our future leaders and encourage them to continue striving until they reach their goals. This allows our young people to see that they can and do contribute to society.

Again, a heartfelt "thank you" to Mississippi Star and its staff for the great articles that you print. Much continued success!

Paula Fairconnetue
Bay St. Louis

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Querita Harris is twenty-two years old and the single mother of a five-year-old, Marquis. What do you think when you read that statement? Another statistic? Someone else dependent on "the system"?? Not hardly! Querita is a hard working, goal-oriented entrepreneur with serious plans for her career and her family's future. She is the owner and operator of Querita's Beauty Salon located in Bay St. Louis. While the salon has developed into a successful business venture, she has discovered other opportunities as her business has grown. According to Querita, "This is only the beginning."

Now how did a teenaged single parent beat the odds so heavily stacked against her? The answer is simple: She has a father who fed his children a daily diet of positive, motivational talks, encouraging them to be "somebody", to focus on what they wanted to achieve, and a mother who would not allow her daughter to accept welfare.

Querita is a mover and a shaker. She says her dad has a new idea for her everyday. She confirmed that she acts on those ideas that get her attention. When asked what has been her motivation, she thoughtfully responded, "My son." She adds that her parents are "the best" and her biggest supporters. MS

by Tracy Joseph

Dorothy Johnson Whitley said the practice of celebrating Black History "Month" rather than studying it throughout the year and the dearth of activities involving young children bothered her for years. In fact, it bothered her so much, she decided to do something about it.

Whitley's *African American Inventions Coloring Book from A to Z* grew from her desire to involve children more fully in black history and to provide a tool for teaching throughout the year.

The coloring book lists inventions of African Americans, from A to Z. Literally, from an airconditioning cooling unit to the inclusion of Pharaoh Zoser, an ancient Egyptian architect who designed steps to the pyramids, the coloring book details common items invented by African Americans and used every day.

"I did it to introduce younger children to the conbtributions of African Americans to science and history," said Whitley. "Many contributions we have made have been overlooked. These are things that we use every day that are essential to our lives."

Whitley is a staff member in the Jackson State University Career Counseling and Placement Center. Copies of *African American Inventions Coloring Book from A to Z* are available at a cost of $5.00 per copy at the JSU Library or outside of Jackson, call (601)638-9201. MS

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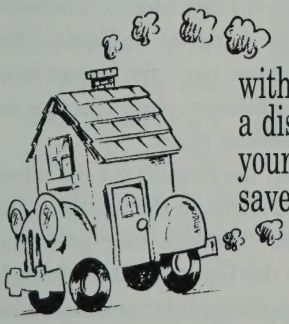

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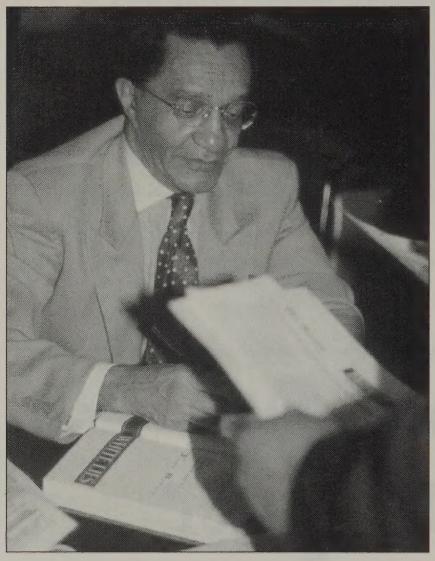
"You're not going to be number one with affirmative action," Tony Brown told guests at the St. Mark United Methodist Church fundraiser at the Broadwater Beach Resort Hotel on



Tony Brown autographing copies of his book, *Black Lies, White Lies*

November 15. The nationally acclaimed author, lecturer, journalist and television talk show host was referring to the socio-economic status of African Americans in comparison to Caucasians and Asian Americans.

"You're not going to be number one if you think Texaco can change your status," he explained. "Texaco is an example of how evil an individual can become." He added, "Any form of racism is a form of mental disease."

Brown's underlying message was that African Americans are in control of their own situations and have only themselves to blame for not achieving what other cultures have achieved in the United States.

"We spend 97 cents of every dollar outside of our communities. We spend $16 billion every summer in white hotels, discussing white racism." He suggested that African Americans could learn from Indians who own 26 percent of hotels in America.

"Accept the fact that you will be responsible for your situation," Brown challenged those in the audience. "It's time for us to be free, or stop talking about it. Our fate has never been in the hands of white people and never will."

Brown told the audience not to buy into the black male endangered species myth. "Black men are too good at everything we do to ever be extinct."

Brown used the familiar adage - "It's not what you call me, it's what I answer to." - to reinforce his point that African Americans should not get hung up on labels. "We don't have but one race - the human race. Now we have different cultures because we come from different places."

Brown said the formula for the salvation of Black America is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. "You can only grow the family from the bottom," he explained. Brown also challenged the audience to be good citizens. "Revenge is not your department," he said. "God will take care of everything and everybody. Let you and I be what we should be." MS

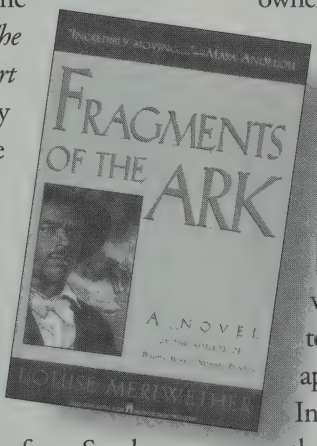
BOOK REVIEW

FRAGMENTS OF THE ARK

by Steve Smith

Although a work of fiction, Fragments of the Ark is based on fact. The life of Robert Smalls, a Sea Island Slave, was the inspiration for an epic that Maya Angelou has called "incredibly moving."

Having first written of this South Carolina native some twenty years ago in *The Freedom Ship of Robert Smalls,* a biography for children, Louise Meriwether had been urged to do a fuller work on the subject ever since.



When the time came to do such a work, she sat by Smalls' grave in Beaufort, South Carolina and asked for his help. "I'm in over my head," she cried. "For God's sake help me." Apperently he did. Although many of the characters in the story are historical figures, dusty and dry they are not. Meriwether brings them to life with vivid narrative and engaging dialogue and Robert Smalls, known in this version of his life story as Peter Mango, is transformed into a hero of mythic proportions.

His position as the pilot aboard the steamer "Swanee" where his owner has hired him out for a good wage, his ability to inspire others to action, and his carefully concealed hatred of the conditions under which he, his friends, family and intended wife must live, combine to make risking his life appear worthwhile.

In the opening days of the Civil War, tension is high in Charleston. White planters and merchants are sending wives, children and elderly to safer areas. Slaves are escaping and crossing the lines to seek refuge and freedom, risking death. Those slaves who

have not tried to escape are viewed even more suspiciously than ever. But the cruel white Captain of the "Swanee" misjudges Peter Mango.

Arriving back at Charleston after a long day of ferrying supplies to Fort Johnson and Fort Wagner, the "Swanee" slips into its berth at sundown. Normally Peter would be allowed to go home after securing the vessel, but the "Swanee" is to leave again at four A.M., and the captain orders Peter to stay aboard to make sure the ship is ready for the next day's mission.

As the Captain steps ashore, Peter is barely able to contain his excitement. The defining moment of his life has arrived. He sends for his beloved Rain and readies his men. To the entire crew, slaves like himself hired out by their owners, he lays out his plan. "Anyone who wishes to go ashore may do so, but there will be no turning back once we begin." Making a bold dash for freedom, Peter and his friends embark on the most difficult and dangerous task they have ever undertaken - a voyage to Union Headquarters at Hilton Head, South Carolina on a stolen Confederate ship!

This significant and inspiring event is merely the beginning of a lifelong fight for freedom and dignity by men like Peter. Upon arrival at Union Headquarters they are treated well but soon are confronted with the fact that the Union is not at all sure what it will do with the hundereds of slaves now in its custody. Although Peter is made Captain of the "Swanee", he gets no pay because officially blacks cannot serve in the armed forces.

Meriwether guides us through the resolution of that issue and several others in this exceptional account of one of the not so well known examples of extraordinary achievement by African Americans. Thank you Louise and thank you Robert Smalls. MS

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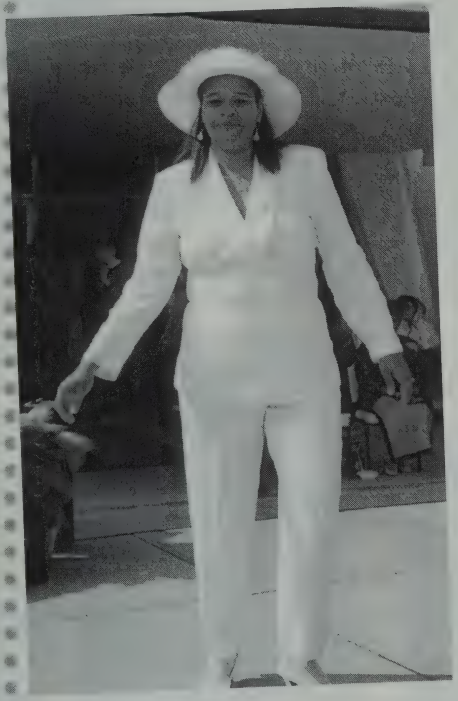
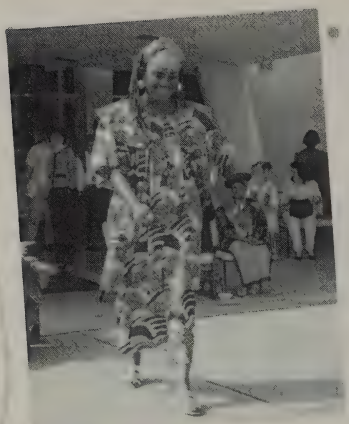


Marshá King on her way to a luncheon with the ladies in the double-breasted white suit, topped off with a fur-wrapped hat.

Stilt Dancer Dr. Ladonna Woullard, Ph.D.

continued on page 14



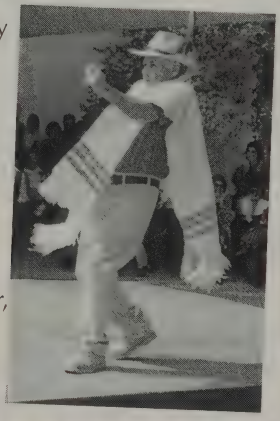
Cynthia Saucier glows in festive African attire

Picayune Cloggers entertain

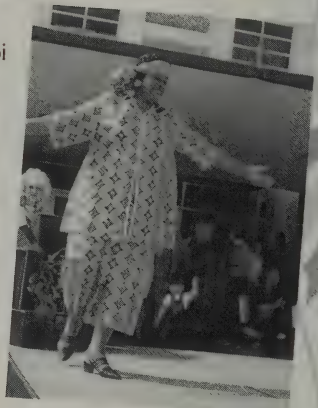
Choctaw Indians from Philadelphia, Mississippi

Carima Mustaffa, Arab Dancer

Connie Lampley modeling business attire



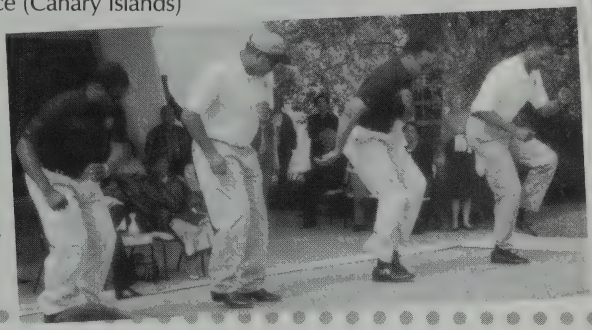
Tom Muchow, Business Manager, Johnson Controls has fun strutting fall look



Rhonda Foley, Engineer, NASA, looks dazzling in bright, African print two piece

Canary Descendants Association perform dance (Canary Islands)

Display of Guatemalan Artifacts



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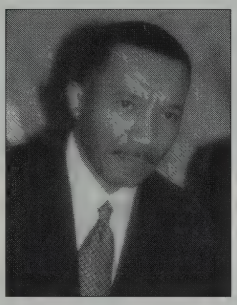
Kweisi Mfume's Speech Highlights

NAACP Mississippi State Conference Freedom Fund Banquet

"We now must speak out in a different way. We must argue that white bigotry as well as black bigotry must be eliminated," said NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume during his speech to attendees at the NAACP Mississippi State Conference's Freedom Fund Banquet.



Kweisi Mfume

Mfume presented a status of the NAACP, which included an announcement that the organization's significant debt had been paid off. He also announced plans to reach out to a broader group of citizens which will be enacted in 1997. This included a 10-city Stop the Killing; Increase the Peace Bus Tour which will begin in June. A prison ministry is scheduled to begin in April.

"We must usher in a whole new generation of people to pick up this mantle and run this race with us," Mfume explained, adding that college students across the country will be targeted for membership, including students at vocational and technical schools who may have been left out of previous membership drives.

"We can't afford to be a social club," Mfume said, explaining that when the organization was founded in 1909 - ten years before the summer of 1919 when lynching hit an all-time high - "people realized that they were not called to have a social club but a social revolution."

"I'm tired of it, and I'm sure you are, too," said Mfume when addressing the question, "What does the NAACP do?" At this point, Mfume presented the organization's five-point plan which is as follows:

1. Fight Discrimination 2. Economic Empowerment 3. Voter Empowerment 4. Youth Outreach 5. Education

Other quotes from Mfume's speech:

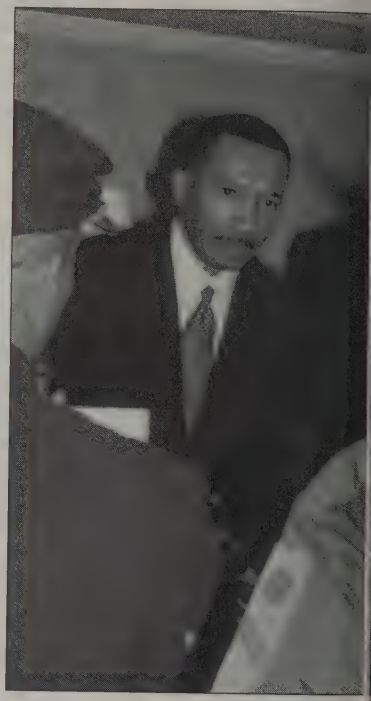
- "Just like the Republicans had a contract with America, we have a vision for a better America."
- "Now is the time to start moving on."
- "While we spent ten years developing the smart bomb, the Japanese developed smart students."
- "We (NAACP) cannot and should not be all things to all people."
- "I will always remember the words of my grandmother: If you live long enough, you'll see everything twice."
- "God has been good to us, hasn't he?"

NAACP Mississip

Robert Boone, Casino America, Inc. Vice President and civil rights leader, Dr. Aaron Henry of Clarksdale.

Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Mason with NAACP CEO Kweisi Mfume.

Mistress of Ceremony LuciMarian Roberts, Freedom Fund Banquet Honoree, Mr. C.C. Bryant and Mississippi State NAACP president Beatrice Branch.

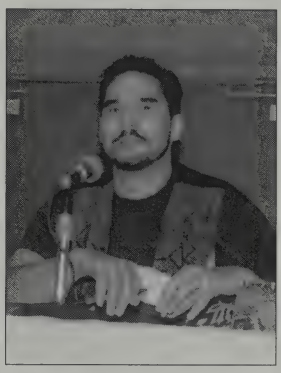


Kweisi Mfume receives standing ovati during Freedom Fund Banquet speecl

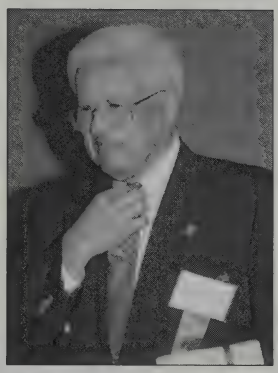
NAACP Gulfport Branch President Egland, WJZD Talk Show co-hos Whitfield and Hancock Bank CRA Sp Gwen Holmes.

i State Conference

NAACP Gulfport Branch president-elect William Martin.



Corey Lombard



Colonel Lawrence Roberts

City Councilman Jimmie Jenkins presents Kweisi Mfume with proclamation from the city of Gulfport.

Harrison County Supervisor Robin Midcalf and Anthony Smith.

Members of Hancock County delegation: Mary Clarke, Yolande Bradley, Father Francis Theriault and Alonzo Daniels.

The Holiday Spirit

by Stacy James Mackey

During the holiday season, we do more than any other time of the year. See if any of this sounds familiar to you:

The holidays are such a busy time of the year. So much shopping to do! So much cooking to do. I've got to get some new decorations for around the house. Half of those Christmas lights are out again. Our company office party is next week. I need a new outfit. Aunt Betty is flying in this year so I must have something under the tree for her. Little Johnny wants a Sega Genesis; I think I'll break down and buy it this year. I have to buy a gift for under $15 for my secret santa co-worker. Call me later; I've got to go to the mall.

We've all heard "Jesus is the reason for the season" but it seems to be a tired slogan that we really don't want to hear. Then there's the saying "It's more blessed to give than to receive," but many of us have the wrong concept of giving. We're guilty of giving gifts in order that we may receive gifts. The stores are saturated with aisles full of the perfect gifts. Besides shopping for your children, relatives, friends and parents, we then shop for our co-workers and others. By January we're moaning over the debt we've incurred for the sake of having a festive Christmas.

Some of us decide to help needy families during this time. There's something about the holidays that makes people feel good about helping others. Food drives, Angel Tree, and Toys for Tots are just a few of the worthwhile causes we support. The problem is that when December 25th comes and goes, so does our charity. The family that you help feed on December 25th may be hungry on January 25th. We appear to have a temporary, seasonal concept when it comes to charitable giving. Matthew 2:10-11 says, "when they (the three wise men) saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary

Stacy James Mackey

his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

As I read the passage, I was reminded that the gifts were presented to the future king. Scripture does not add that afterwards the wise men then all exchanged gifts with each other. The world has allowed the joy of cherishing the birth of Christ to be something that has no Christ in it.

I know that familiar holiday habits won't dissolve in one year, but try adding something spiritual to the season. Use your heart, spirit, tithe, talent or time to present our Savior with a gift of love. Try welcoming a homeless person into the warmth of your home instead of dropping a care package off at the shelter. One family shared with me that each year they have a special nativity scene in their home and the youngest child is responsible for placing the baby Jesus in the cradle on Christmas morning. They then talk about the glorious story over breakfast. There are more ways to celebrate than with purchased gifts on Christmas.

God's grace isn't limited to a holiday season and so our giving shouldn't be either. I hope that I've given you something to pray about. MS

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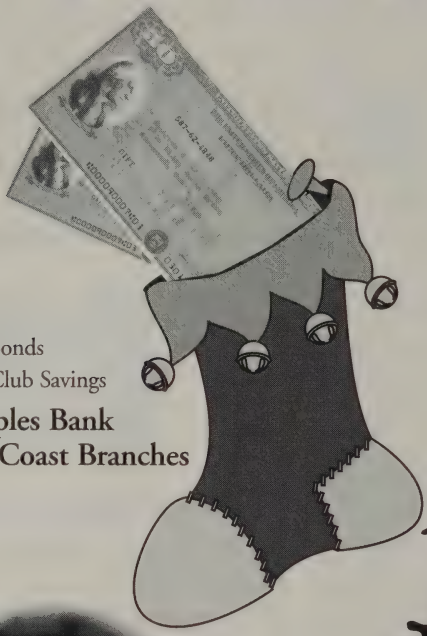

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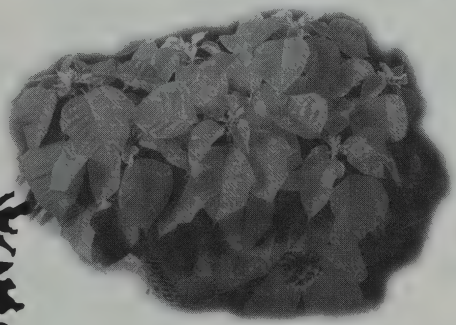

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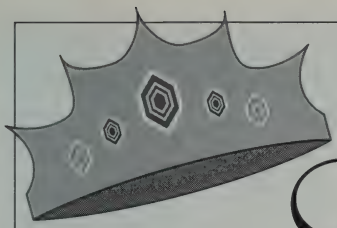

Campus Queens

April LaChan Smith is the reigning Miss Alcorn State University. A twenty-one year old senior, biology/pre-medicine major, Smith is active in the Honors Student Organization, the ASU Gospel Choir and the Wind Ensemble. She is an ASU Dean's List Scholar and currently holds the position of president of the Shiloh District Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention of America. April is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Nathaniel Smith of Ocean Springs.

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Stacey Dionne Jones is the reigning senior maid for Mississippi State University's homecoming court. An industrial engineering major, Stacey has been involved in a variety of campus activities while at MSU. She has served in the Student Association Cabinet and has held the position of Student Association Director of Minority Affairs. After she attains a bachelor of science degree, she plans to attend law school and pursue a law career. Stacey is the daughter of Bobby J. and Gwendolyn Jones of Gulfport.

Miss Rust College is **Shasante C. Jackson** of Greenville. A senior English/journalism major, Shasante serves as editor of *The Rustorian,* the campus newspaper. She is a member of the college band and the Theatre Guild. An aspiring journalist, Shasante plans to attend graduate school to work toward advanced degrees in English. Shasante is the daughter of Frederick and Sandra Jackson of Greenville.

Tracey Nikethia Scott is the 1996-97 homecoming queen for the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. A senior dance major, she will complete requirements towards a bachelor's of fine arts degree next May. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the African American Student Organization, After graduation, the Vicksburg native plans to teach dance to children. Tracey is the daughter of Loretta Scott Fields and the late Randy Young.

Over the past twelve months **Clara H. Saafir** held the title of Miss University of Southern Mississippi, She will graduate in December with a double degree in criminal justice and psychology and plans to continue her studies, pursuing a graduate degree in the area of college student personnel and counseling with a minor emphasis in statistics. She has been active in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Student Government Association, and the African American Student Organization. Clara is the daughter of Jimmie and Annie Travis of Jackson.

Deidre M. Bell is the reigning Miss Jackson State University. A senior mass communications major, Deidre is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society; the JSU Dean's List; the Prancing J-Settes; the JSU Dance Ensemble; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is secretary of the JSU chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. She is the recipient of the Youth in Government Scholarship, Nations Bank Scholarship, and a four year $1500 per year Delta Scope Scholarship Award given by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. of Fort Worth. Deidre is the daughter of Louie Ray Bell and Martha Lynn Bell of Fort Worth.

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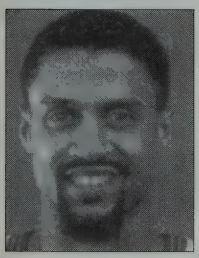
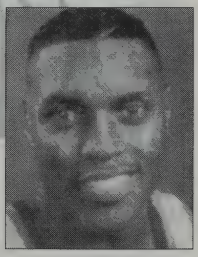
Mississippians in the NBA

The state of Mississippi appears to be growing into an NBA training ground. Of the 485 active players listed in The Sporting News 1996-97 Official NBA Register, seventeen players have ties to Mississippi. This is a dramatic increase from the numbers of Mississippians in the NBA during the seventies and eightees. If my memory serves me correctly, the players I recall from the seventies and eightees are only four: Purvis Short, the rainbow jumpshooter out of Jackson State University and Hattiesburg High School; Larry Smith, the intimidating rebounder out of Alcorn State University; Bailey Howell, the Mississippi State University forward who played on the Boston Celtics 1968 and '69 NBA championship teams; and Spencer Haywood who grew up in Silver City, Mississippi. Certainly, there are others, and I apologize in advance for not recalling their names.

It's more than numbers, too. The talent is exceptional. Clarence Witherspoon and Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf are bigtime players. Derrick McKey appears to be playing longer seasons than most players. And a record three Mississippians were drafted in the first round of the 1996 NBA draft.



Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf is a guard with the Sacrament Kings. In his seventh season in the league, the 6'1" shooting guard spent his first six seasons with the Denver Nuggets, averaging 16.0 points per game over his career, with a high of 19.2 ppg in the '95-'96 and '92-'93 seasons. Last season, the former Gulfport standout shot a career best from 3-point range with an average of .392 (121 - 309).



Joe Courtney The 6'9" forward played in 23 games last season with the Cleveland Cavaliers after a very productive '94-'95 season in the Continental Basketball Association where he averaged 16.9 ppg, beginning in Rockford and ending in New Mexico. Courtney played college ball at Mississippi State and the University of Southern Mississsippi. The Jackson native prepped at Jackson's Callaway H.S.

Melvin Booker played in eleven games with the Houston Rockets during the 1995-96 season. The 6'2" guard out of Moss Point High School averaged 13.7 ppg with Grand Rapids of the CBA.

Kevin Glass played in 15 games during the 1995-96 season. The 6'6" G/F began the season with New Jersey and was traded to Charlotte before being waived by the Hornets in February. Glass prepped at

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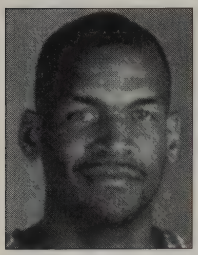
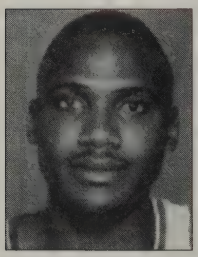
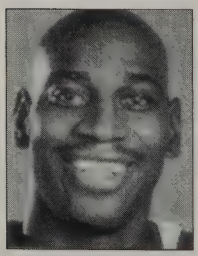
Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood and concluded his college career at the University of Mississippi after playing two seasons at Delta State University.



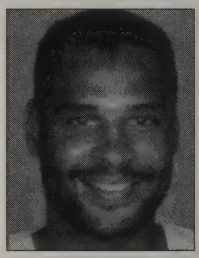
Antonio Harvey played in 55 NBA games during the '95-'96 season. The 6'11' F/C concluded last season with the Los Angeles Clippers after being waived by the Vancouver Grizzlies in late December. The former Pascagoula H.S. player was not drafted after college but was signed as a free agent by the Los Angeles Lakers after a standout senior year at Pfeiffer in which he averaged 18.3 ppg.



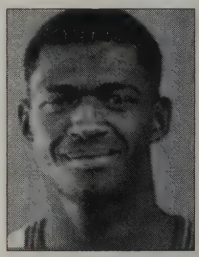
Lindsey Hunter is in his fourth season with the Detroit Pistons. The former Jackson State University star and first-round NBA pick, shot a career best .405 percentage from 3-point range, hitting 117 of 289 from behind the arc. The 6'2" guard has a career average of 9.0 points and 3.0 assists per game. Hunter played prep ball at Murrah H. S. in Jackson.



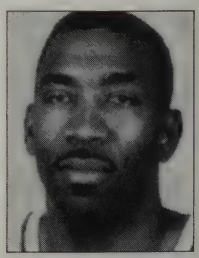
Randolph Keys played in 69 games last year with the Milwaukee Bucks. The 6'7" forward was a first-round pick of the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 1988 draft. He averaged 8.8 points per game during his second NBA season in which he played part of the season with the Charlotte Hornets, after being traded by the Cavaliers in February of 1990. Keys averaged 13.4 ppg over the course of four years at the University of Southern Mississippi, capped by a17.7 ppg senior campaign. Keys is a native of Collins, Mississippi.



Jeff Malone is approaching the end of a stellar NBA career. The 6'4" shooting guard finished his thirteenth NBA season with the Miami Heat after being traded by the Philadelphia 76ers. Malone was the first-round pick of the Washington Bullets in the 1983 NBA draft after an All-SEC season at Mississippi State University in which he averaged 26.8 ppg.



Antonio McDyess averaged 13.4 ppg in his rookie season with the Denver Nuggets. The Quitman, Mississippi native was the second overall pick of the 1995 NBA draft. McDyess was drafted by the Los Angeles Clippers who traded their draft rights to Denver. The 6'9" F/C played two seasons at the University of Alabama.



Derrick McKey is beginning his tenth NBA season as a forward with the Indiana Pacers. McKey was the first-round pick of the Seattle Supersonics in the 1987 NBA draft. McKey has a career playoff scoring average of 12.1 ppg. The 6'10" forward prepped at Meridian High School.

continued on page 32

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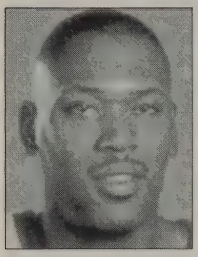
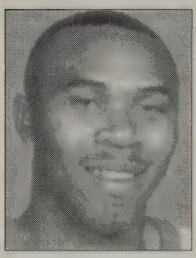
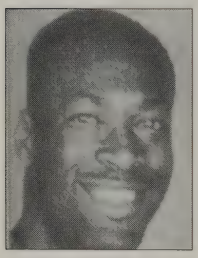


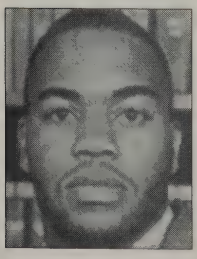
James Robinson is in his fourth NBA season. The 6'2" guard was selected by the Portland Trailblazers in the first round of the 1993 NBA draft after averaging 20.6 ppg as a junior at the University of Alabama. The former Murrah High School (Jackson) standout was traded to the Timberwolves on July 23, 1996.



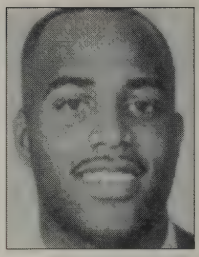
Clarence Weatherspoon is in his fifth season with the Philadelphia 76ers. The 6'7" forward was the team's first-round pick in the 1992 NBA draft. The former University of Southern Mississippi standout has a professional career scoring average of 17.2 ppg. Weatherspoon prepped at Motley High School in Columbus.



Erick Dampier is a rookie C/F with the Indiana Pacers. Dampier was selected by the Pacers in the first round of the 1996 NBA draft. The 6'11" native of Monticello, Mississippi, averaged 13.2 ppg over a period of three seasons at Mississippi State University.

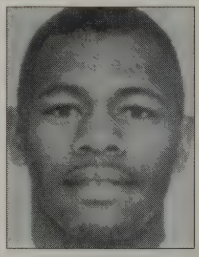


Othello Harrington was selected as the 30th overall pick in the 1996 NBA draft by the Houston Rockets. Harrington averaged 13.9 ppg over the course of four seasons at Georgetown University. The 6'9" forward prepped at Murrah High School in Jackson.



Ronnie Henderson was the second-round pick of the Washington Bullets. The 6'4" guard averaged 20.3 ppg at Louisiana State University. Henderson prepped at Murrah High School in Jackson.

Dontaé Jones was selected by the New York Knicks in the first round of the 1996 NBA draft (one of two Mississippi State University players selected in first round - Erick Dampier, the other). The native of Nashville played at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Mississippi before transferring to MSU.



Marcus Mann was the second-round pick of the Golden State Warriors. The 6'8" forward led the NCAA Division I with 13.8 rebounds per game. Mann averaged 21.5 ppg as a senior at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena. He played two seasons at East Central Community College and prepped at South Leake High School in Walnut Grove, Mississippi. MS

Information contained in this article comes courtesy of the National Basketball Association and The Sporting News 1996-97 Edition of the Official NBA Register.

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News Briefs

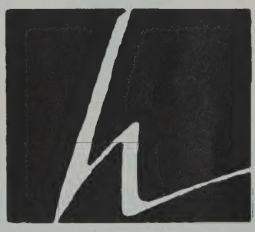
GULFPORT **William Martin** was elected to fill the office of president of the Gulfport chapter of the NAACP. The former Harrison County assistant district attorney will follow local businesswoman Kathy Egland as the Gulfport chapter's leader. His term officially begins in January.

Robin Midcalf, a local attorney and Harrison County District Four Supervisor, will be traveling to Russia and other former Soviet Republics December 6 - 18. Ms. Midcalf has been invited to serve as a member of a delegation to meet with government and political leaders in an effort to better understand key issues facing those countries and the dynamics of U.S. - Russia relations. The American Council of Young Political Leaders is hosting the delegation's tour, which is being arranged with the assistance of the organization's counterpart in Russia, the Movement for Understanding. Robin is looking forward to representing Harrison County and the State of Mississippi in this exciting venture.

Three suspects were arrested in connection with the murder of Gulfport taxi driver, Rickey L. Spratt, 39. Michael Angelo Bolton, 21, Tara Denise Floyd Bolton, 20, and Cleveland Joe Floyd, 18, are all being held in the Harrison County Jail.

MOSS POINT Two local men face state and federal charges in connection with the spraying of an illegal insecticide in homes and businesses in Jackson County.

COAST **The Mississippi Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists** (MGCABJ) elected Marquita Smith to serve as its first president. The remaining offices were filled as follows: Clenis Fortune, 1st VP; Miyoka Broussard, 2nd VP; Don Adderton, Treasurer; Jocelyn Black, Secretary; and Danielle Jewett, Financial Secretary. Rip Daniels was appointed as the group's first parliamentarian. Seventeen MGCABJ members from various local media participated in the nomination and election of officers. The group plans to meet once a month.



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December 3-7

National Black Caucus
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Broadwater Beach Resort Biloxi

December 6

Christmas In The Pass
Downtown Pass Christian
4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

December 19

"MELODIES FROM HEAVEN"
Gospel Musical Victory Full Gospel
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Saenger Theatre Biloxi 7:00 p.m.

December 20

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Christmas Dance
Isiah Fredericks Community Center
Gulfport 9:00 p.m. - Until

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Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

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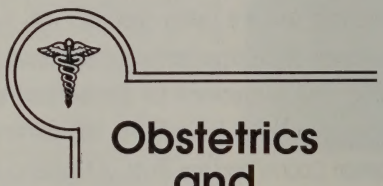

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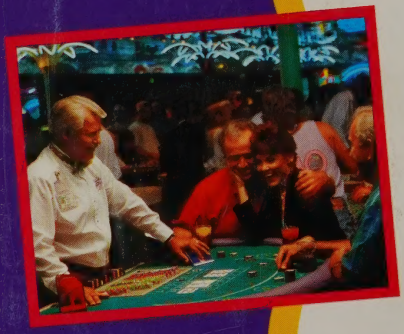

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